



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



APRIL - MAY - JUNE

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Cut the grass as high as recommended for your particular variety. Do not remove more than 1/3 the height of the leaf blade with any mowing. St. Augustine grass standard varieties should be cut to a height of 3-4 inches and semi-dwarf varieties 2.5 inches.
- **Irrigation:** Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch of water twice a week when the temperatures increase in the spring. Adjust schedule if rains occur.
- **Weed Control:** Apply pre-emergence herbicides such as atrazine or pendimethalin in May. Do not apply these products if the turf is under moisture stress or if air temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.
- **Fertilization:** Fertilize two weeks after spring new growth. Apply a complete fertilizer at the rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Apply manganese only or with other micronutrients as a fertilizer bimonthly at 0.4 pounds per 1000 square feet if deficiency symptoms appear.
- **Pest Control:** If pest problems are suspected, take a sample to the Extension office nearest you for diagnosis.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Apply a citrus special fertilizer in May for bearing trees. This should be the 2nd application of fertilizer of the year. Apply the fertilizer 1 ft. away from the trunk up to few feet past the drip line of the tree.

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SPRING 2010

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Dr. Al Ferrer
Urban Horticulturist
Seminole County Extension
AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Tests performed Mon & Fri.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Irrigation:** Citrus should be watered with two applications of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water per week.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches. Citrus trees can be pruned from March through June.
- **Pest Control:** For prevention of pest problems, apply a copper fungicide (follow the label instructions) and 2 teaspoons of malathion per gallon of water during late April to early May.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized Three times per year and in deep sandy soils six times per year. Use a palm special fertilizer 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet four times per year. The 2nd application of the year should be in May. Fertilize all landscape plants within 50 feet from the palm with the palm special fertilizer. If the palm is in the turf area, do not fertilize your grass with a turf fertilizer since it can induce severe nutritional deficiencies in the palm that can lead to its death.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut from under leaf petiole and then make the next cut from the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

Spring Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Calabaza, Cantaloupe, Cassava, Chayote, Cherry tomato, Cucumber, Dasheen, Eggplant, Malanga, Okra, Pepper, Roselle, Snap bean, Squash, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Yam.

HERBS - Anise, Basil, Chives, Dill, Borage, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram and Thyme.

BULBS - Agapanthus, Amaryllis, Begonia, Caladium, Canna, Crinum, Dahlia, Gladioli, Gloriosa lily, and Rain lily.



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

The Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program educates the public on Florida Friendly Landscaping™ 9 Principles that can help you create and maintain beautiful landscapes, lawns and gardens. The second of the 9 Principles is “Water Efficiently” and in March of 2009 the St. Johns River Water Management District adopted more stringent watering restrictions to ensure the efficient use of water for lawn and landscape irrigation. A very important way to help meet Florida's water supply needs for today and the future is through conservation.

Lawn and landscape irrigation often accounts for more than half of residential water use. Be sure to change your irrigation timer to one day a week according to your address. If you do not have irrigation system be sure to know your days! Your lawn is an important investment and decreasing watering during the dormancy months, when your grass is not growing is a great way to reduce water usage, decrease your water bill, protect the environment and reduce runoff from your yard. Watering wisely promotes healthier lawns and landscapes and conserves Florida's precious water resources.

Because lawns need significantly less water in Florida's winter months, landscape irrigation is limited to one day a week on the following schedule when Eastern Standard Time is in effect:

- Saturday at addresses that end in an odd number or have no address
- Sunday at addresses that end in an even number
- Tuesday for nonresidential landscape irrigation
- No irrigation allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In addition, irrigation is limited to 3/4 inch of water per irrigation zone and to no more than one hour per irrigation zone.

When daylight saving time returns on March 14, 2010, landscape irrigation will return to the two-day-a-week schedule.

The restrictions apply to water withdrawn from ground or surface water, from a private well or pump, or from a public or private water utility, but they do not apply to irrigation using reclaimed water or storm water.

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check out the websites www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn and www.FloridaYards.org



“Ask A Master Gardener”

We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
407-665-5550

A word about “organic” pesticides
Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as “organic” (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually break down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water
2 tbsp dish soap
(without degreasers)
2 tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so, water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water
4 teaspoons of baking soda
1 oz. horticulture oil

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

**test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant.*

Q. How can I eliminate nematodes from my Florida vegetable garden?

A. There are no chemical treatments available to the homeowner, but adhering to best management practices has been demonstrated to reduce the effects of nematodes to tolerable levels. The following IFAS publications describe several best management practices that should be applied in combination for nematode management.

Managing Nematodes for the Non-Commercial Vegetable Garden

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ng005>

Soil Organic Matter, Green Manures and Cover Crops for Nematode Management

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/vh037>

By the way, many of these same practices can be applied to the ornamental garden as well.

Q. Does the Seminole County Extension Service conduct vegetable gardening classes?

A. In February 2010 the Master Gardeners conducted three separate sessions of a new class entitled *Planning Your First Florida Vegetable Garden*. It was so popular that we plan to conduct additional classes for the cool season gardeners in fall 2010. Stay tuned for a schedule.

Q. I lost many plants this winter to the freezing weather. Will they come back?

A. It depends. Most of the plants rated for USDA Zone 9 and below should recover. Some of the plants rated for Zones 10 and higher may not recover, though you should wait several weeks before removing damaged plants – some will surprise you and return in full force by mid to late summer. Be aware that here in Central Florida tropical plants are at risk of succumbing to one of our below average winters every few years, but they can be rewarding as long as one is willing to accept the risk with the rewards.

Note: specific Internet addresses of documents are subject to change without notice, but were accurate at printing time.





THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate the community and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Three garden areas showcasing plants suitable for varied sunlight and water conditions, and a butterfly garden.

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

A collection of gardens in the Historic District of Sanford for students of Seminole County and the community. Sponsored by SCPS Student Museum and Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com

Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods plant selection, irrigation system, and mulching encompasses the 9 Florida Friendly Landscape™ Principles.

Sponsored by Seminole County Environmental Services.

Coordinators: Debbie Meinert, dmeinert@seminolecountyfl.gov
and Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov



The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO
Saturday, November 6, 2010 at Red Bug Lake Park
10 am to 4 pm.

Applications for exhibit space are now being accepted. Follow these internet links to the Synopsis and Application forms.

[http:// dl.dropbox.com/u/4038623/EXPO%20Synopsis.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/4038623/EXPO%20Synopsis.pdf)

[http:// dl.dropbox.com/u/4038623/EXPO%20Application.pdf](http://dl.dropbox.com/u/4038623/EXPO%20Application.pdf)

Pest Alert: *Nipaecoccus viridis* , a New Exotic Mealybug found in South Florida



On November 13, 2009 in Palm Beach County specimens of this exotic mealybug was found infesting dodder, a parasitic plant. Native to Asia, this mealybug has been previously intercepted at several ports-of-entry on plants from several families. They measure approximately 4 mm long by 3 mm wide with body color black, purple to blue green with thick white or pale yellow wax. Females secrete a wax that is sticky when touched. In high densities, the waxy secretions may appear as a continuous layer of wax which will obscure individual mealybugs. Wax may turn yellow in older infestations. Specimens do turn black in 70% alcohol. Identification can be done only by specialists. This is an agricultural pest in Asia that attacks food, forage, ornamental crops and fiber crops, such as cotton. It is also a pest of stored potatoes. It is widespread throughout the tropics and subtropics, attacking numerous plant species and often causing considerable damage with a high invasiveness potential. It has been found only in Palm Beach County in Florida. The mealybug destroyer, which is present in Florida is known to be a natural enemy of this pest.





EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —
Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
— — — — —

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly Newsletter

To receive by email
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

Newsletter Contributors:

*Dr. Al Ferrer
Rudy White
Gabrielle Milch
Leslie Martino
Stephanie Powers*

**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

April 8, 2010
6:30pm-8:30pm

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
9 Principles for Residents
Sanford City Chambers
300 N. Park Ave. Sanford, Fl.
Registration required 407-665-5575

April 10, 2010
9:00am - NOON

Right Plant, Right Place
Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required 407-665-5575

April 17, 2010
9:00am - 2:00pm

6th Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
Hwy 17-92 and County Home Rd.
In front of Seminole County Museum
Great deals on landscaping plants!!!

April 17 & 18, 2010 Bromeliad & Tropical Plant sale
9:00am - 4:00pm

Garden Club Of Sanford
200 Fairmont Dr. Sanford, Fl.
Free!!!

www.sbtps.org

May 1, 2010
9:00am - 4:00pm

Gardens around the Park
301 W. 7th St. Sanford (Student Museum)
Free!! May pole Dance, Vendors, Artists & more
Tour of Home Gardens
\$10.00 ticket Contact: Sarah Miller for tickets
Sarah.lou@myfairpoint.net

May 15 & 22, 2010
9:00am- 1:00pm

Introduction to Plants for
Central Florida Gardens
Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
\$10.00 per person seating limited
Registration required 407-665-5575

May 16, 2010
11:00am - 5:00pm

Garden Walk/Private Gardens
FREE!!!
Self-guided tour bring family/friends
For More Info & Map
Contact: jmangos@att.net

June 19, 2010
9:00am - Noon

Manage Your Pests Wisely
Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required 407-665-5575

